

IN MEMORIAM



Prokop Málek (1915-1992)

Prokop Málek, Honorary Past-President of the International Society of Lymphology, Founder and Emeritus Director of the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague, Professor of Charles University, and a full member of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences, died on 30 September 1992 at age 77 years.

Málek began his career in medicine as a surgeon in 1945, but soon thereafter developed a keen interest in experimental medicine. He built a modern department of experimental surgery where he began to study the lymphatic system in the early 1960's. Joined by experts in radiology, pathologic physiology, immunology, pharmacology, and a variety of clinical specialties, Málek helped expand the body of knowledge about the function and structure of lymph vessels. Major areas of his research

were devoted to the role of lymph in the absorption of antibiotics and other drugs, lymphovenous communications, lymph dynamics in shock and ischemic syndromes, lymphatic regeneration after renal transplantation, and the importance of the lymph circulation in experimental pancreatitis. Málek also devoted considerable time and effort to developing experimental and clinical lymphangiography including the introduction of new techniques to visualize the lymphatic system. It was therefore entirely appropriate that Málek became, in 1966, one of the founding members of the International Society of Lymphology (ISL) and that as President of the VIth International Congress of the ISL held in Prague in 1977, he defined and designated Lymphology as a distinct scientific discipline (Current Concepts in Lymphology, P. Málek, et al (Eds.). In: *Lymphology—Proceedings of the VIth International Congress*, Prague, 1977, Georg Thieme, Stuttgart, Avicenum Czechoslovak Medical Press, Prague, 1979, p 1-5). In his home country, he was widely recognized and credited with the organization, implementation, and dedication to the successful development of kidney, pancreatic, and heart transplantation. In more recent years, Málek was noted for his popular books including essays on the relationship between fine arts and science and on history and medicine. His demise is a loss not only to science but also to culture and learning everywhere.

Vladimír Bartos, M.D., D.Sc.
Institute for Clinical and
Experimental Medicine
Head, Department of Diabetology and
Experimental Therapy
Vídenská 800
140 00 Prague 4, CZECHOSLOVAKIA